



Texas Wheat Producers Association

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June 6, 2005

The Honorable Kevin P. Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brady:

The Texas Wheat Producers Association (TWPA) would like to urge you to support the U.S.-CAFTA-DR Free Trade Agreement. Under the CAFTA-DR, all duties on U.S. wheat will be removed immediately upon implementation. Binding all tariffs at zero will help secure and protect the U.S. wheat industry's lead in Central America. The U.S. wheat industry has a great relationship with the Central American countries, and the implementation the CAFTA-DR will ensure the U.S. an opportunity to maintain its leadership in this growing market.

TWPA represents over 30,000 wheat growers in the state, from the Panhandle to the Gulf coast, across the Rolling Plains, and into the Blacklands region. Many of these growers' livelihoods depend 100% on agriculture. In the U.S., approximately 60% of the wheat produced each year is exported, so trade agreements like CAFTA-DR have immense implications for the wheat growers of Texas.

In addition, CAFTA-DR will benefit more than just wheat farmers; it will enhance the export of many Texas products, including beef, pork, poultry, dairy, cotton, corn, feed grains, soybeans, rice, fruits and vegetables. Exports of farm products help boost Texas' farm prices and income. Such exports help support about 53,720 jobs both on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. In 2003, Texas' farm cash receipts were \$15.3 billion, and agricultural exports were estimated at \$3.4 billion, putting its reliance on agricultural exports at 22 percent.

Please refer to the attachments for further details or feel free to contact our office for more information on CAFTA-DR. Agricultural producers in Texas need your support for CAFTA-DR.

Sincerely,

Foy Gibson
President
Bend, TX

David Cleavinger
First Vice President
Widorado, TX

Ken Davis
Vice President
Grandview, TX

Fred Dwyer
Vice President
Wichita Falls, TX